wherein the accounting unit has a first entry to indicate a quality of service provided over the packet-based network, and a second entry to indicate mobility management.

A1

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining, monitoring, and collecting are performed in a first entity, the method further comprising transmitting, from the first entity, the accounting unit to at least another entity.

A2

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising using an accounting unit having a common format for convenient exchange between entities.

A3

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the type of service includes determining one of a plurality of service types, wherein collecting the accounting information comprises collecting an additional entry assigned a value to indicate a type of service.

A4

16. (Amended) A method of accounting for services provided over a packet-based network, comprising:

communicating a unit of accounting information carrying information regarding usage of the packet-based network by a terminal, the unit of accounting information having a predetermined format capable of being exchanged between a plurality of entities; and

assigning values to entries in the unit of accounting information based on usage, the unit including a first entry indicating a quality of service provided over the packet-based network and a second entry containing a network access identifier of the terminal to uniquely identify the terminal.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein assigning values to entries further includes assigning a value to an additional entry indicating a type of service.

A5

21. (Amended) A system capable of being coupled to a packet-based network, comprising:

a controller to collect usage information based on a service used by a node on the packet-based network; and

a storage device containing an accounting unit in which the usage information is collected, the accounting unit including a plurality of entries to identify usage elements from which accounting may be derived, the entries comprising a first entry to indicate a quality of service used by the node and a second entry to indicate usage of mobility management.

A6

24. (Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the entries of the accounting unit further comprise entries indicating elements used by a mobile node, including mobility management, usage of a radio interface, and usage of a visited network.

A7

26. (Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the accounting unit is according to a predetermined format, the controller to further communicate the accounting unit to another entity.

27. (Amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

an accounting processor adapted to receive accounting units from at least one other entity.

A8

29. (Amended) An article including one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions for accounting for services used on a packet-based data network, the instructions when executed causing a system to:

determine usage elements associated with each service, the usage elements including a service type, amount of data communicated, and mobility management; and

collect accounting units each including entries identifying the usage elements.

30. (Amended) The article of claim 29, wherein the one or more storage media contain instructions that when executed cause the system to further communicate the accounting units to another entity.

31. (Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising one or more code segments containing instructions for accounting for services used on a packet-based data network, the instructions when executed causing a system to:

A8

receive accounting units from at least another entity, each accounting unit containing a first entry identifying a quality of service, a second entry identifying a terminal the accounting unit is associated with, and a third entry indicating usage of mobility management;

determine, from each accounting unit, usage of a service on the packet-based network; and

charge at least a subscriber for the usage of the service.

32. (Amended) A storage device for storing data for access by one or more software routines being executed on a system, comprising:

a data structure stored in the storage device and including a plurality of entries, the entries including a first field indicating a quality of service provided over a packet-based network, a second field indicating if the service is chargeable, and a third field including an identifier identifying a node using the service.

Add the following claims:

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34. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein assigning a value to the additional entry comprises assigning one of plural values corresponding to plural types of service.

A9

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the plural types of service comprise real-time communications and at least another type of service.

36. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein communicating the unit of accounting information comprises communicating a traffic matrix segment having a header and plural rows, each row containing accounting information associated with a session having a given time duration.

37. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein assigning values to entries further includes assigning values to additional entries containing source and destination network addresses.

A9

38. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising monitoring usage of services on the packet-based network with an accounting meter, wherein assigning values to the entries is performed by the accounting meter.

39. (New) The article of claim 29, wherein the usage elements further comprise quality of service, usage of air interface, and a network access identifier.